

AMENDED ESTIMATES FOR FORTIFICATIONS FOR THE
YEAR 1857.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 180.]

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

COMMUNICATING

Additional estimates for fortifications.

JULY 10, 1856.—Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

Washington, June 5, 1856.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith an amended estimate, prepared by the Chief Engineer, of appropriations for fortifications under construction or repair for the year ending June 30, 1857, and to recommend the same to the favorable consideration of the Committee of Ways and Means. It is believed by the department that if the additional appropriations asked for are granted at an early day, at the close of the year the works enumerated will be so far completed as to be in a state to render efficient defence.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JEFFERSON DAVIS,
Secretary of War.

Hon. L. D. CAMPBELL,

Chairman Com. Ways and Means, H. R.

ENGINEER DEPARTMENT,

Washington, March 3, 1856.

SIR: I have the honor to propose, for your consideration, that the annual estimate for fortifications, for the year ending 30th June, 1857, be amended as follows:

For Fort Montgomery, at outlet of Lake Champlain, instead of \$25,000, ask \$100,000.

For Fort Richmond, at the Narrows, New York harbor, instead of \$75,000, ask \$100,000.

For Fort Schuyler, New York harbor, insert \$15,000.

For Fort Delaware, Delaware river, instead of \$150,000, ask \$200,000.

For Fort Monroe, (for repairs of fort and finishing permanent wharf,) Hampton Roads, Virginia, insert \$20,000.

For Fort Calhoun, entrance to Hampton Roads, instead of \$50,000, ask \$100,000.

For Fort Clinch, entrance to Cumberland sound, Florida, instead of \$25,000, ask \$75,000.

For Fort Gaines, Dauphin island, Mobile bay, Alabama, instead of \$50,000, ask \$75,000.

For Fort Barrancas, Pensacola harbor, instead of \$25,000, ask \$50,000.

For Fort Taylor, Key West, Florida, instead of \$150,000, ask \$300,000.

For Fort Jefferson, Tortugas, Florida, instead of \$150,000, ask \$300,000.

For Fort Livingston, Grand Terre, Louisiana, insert \$60,000.

For repairs of Fort Ontario, near Oswego, New York, insert \$6,000.

For repairs of Fort Niagara, New York, insert \$10,000.

For repairs of Fort Wood, Bedlow's island, New York harbor, insert \$10,000.

For repairs of Fort Madison, Annapolis harbor, Maryland, insert \$5,000.

For repairs of Fort Morgan, mouth of Mobile bay, Alabama, instead of \$25,000, ask \$50,000.

For repairs of Fort Pickens, Pensacola harbor, Florida, insert \$50,000.

For extension of battery and citadel at Fort Jackson, Mississippi river, instead of \$10,000, ask \$56,000.

For repairs of Fort St. Philip, Mississippi river, instead of \$30,000, ask \$60,000.

For contingent expenses of fortifications not herein mentioned, including repairs and alterations of barracks, quarters, hospitals, store-rooms, wharves, fences, sea-walls, and other small repairs, the preservation of sites, the protection of titles, and repairs of sudden damages to forts, instead of \$30,000, ask \$200,000.

The above specification embraces all the items of the original estimate in which I desire to propose any changes. The remaining items of that estimate (as printed on pages 63 and 64 of the "Estimates of Appropriations" for the year ending 30th June, 1857) should remain unchanged, and it is hoped will be appropriated as they stand.

The estimate for fortifications, amended as proposed above, will enable us, within the year, to add greatly to their efficiency—that is to say, to their fighting condition. Several of the forts will be brought nearly, some quite, to completion; and I think there will not be one, even of those least advanced, at which, at the close of the year, we shall not be able, with temporary arrangements speedily made, to act with decided effect.

But to this end, we should know some months before the opening of the fiscal year that we are to have these means ; for, until the passage of the appropriation, we can enter into no engagements for supplies of materials and workmen, and months are necessary to secure them at several of the most important of the stations. For instance, we must now curtail operations at Key West and Tortugas, as we have a small balance left for these works, unless we know very soon that there will be another appropriation available on the 1st of July ; with that knowledge we should be able to advance with little or no pause.

I have, &c.,

JOS. G. TOTTEN,

Brevet Brig. Gen. and Col. Engineers.

Hon. JEFFERSON DAVIS,

Secretary of War.

Increase on former estimates, <i>annual</i>	\$871,000
New items estimated for.....	176,000
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Total increase.....	1,047,000
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